

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been amended. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 1-3 are currently pending in this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original and other claims in this and other applications. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kikuchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,898,165) (“Kikuchi”). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 has been canceled, therefore the rejection as to claim 4 is moot.

Kikuchi does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. Specifically, Kikuchi does not disclose, teach or suggest “said reading section [being] disposed in said housing, … said reference discal unit [being] rotatably mounted on a cylindrical member fixed to said housing, [or] said operation discal unit [being] connected to said detection discal unit by a shaft at least partly located inside said fixed cylindrical member.”

Kikuchi relates to a reproducing apparatus wherein the reproducing speed of a recording medium, such as a CD, can be changed according to a “scratch operation.” The reproducing apparatus of Kikuchi has two parts. First, the reproducing apparatus of Kikuchi includes a reproducing part 52, which is concerned with reproducing the data stored on the recording medium. The second part of the reproducing apparatus is the scratch operating part 110, which is used by the user to modify the output of the data read from the recording medium by the reproducing part 52.

Optical pickup 16, which the Office Action contends corresponds to the reading section of the claimed invention (Office Action, page 2), is part of the reproducing part 52 of Kikuchi. The reproducing part 52 of Kikuchi is not located within the chassis 112 (which arguably corresponds to the housing). Therefore, Kikuchi does not disclose the reading part being disposed in the housing.

Kikuchi also does not disclose the reference discal unit being rotatably mounted on a cylindrical member fixed to the housing or the operation discal unit being connected to the detection discal unit by a shaft at least partly located inside said fixed cylindrical member as required by the claimed invention. The scratch operating part 110 of Kikuchi attempts to provide a disk 122 which is independently rotatable from a turntable 118, while rotating about a common axis with the turntable 118. In Kikuchi, this is implemented by way of a complicated bearing 114 set up. See Kikuchi, Fig. 5.

Kikuchi further includes a chassis 112 having an aperture in which bearing 114 is located. Bearing 114 enables the independent rotation of the disk 122 on the turntable 118. The bearing 114 includes an outer cylinder 132 located within the mounting aperture 112a of the chassis 112. Located within the outer cylinder 132 is an inner cylinder 136, which is separated from the outer cylinder 132 by bearings 134, 135, which allow the inner cylinder 136 to rotate within the outer cylinder 132. The turntable 118 is fixed to the rotatable inner cylinder 136. Located within the inner cylinder 136 is a rotational axis 116 which is itself capable of independent rotation relative to the inner cylinder 136. The disk 122 is fixed to the rotational axis 116 by a bolt 120.

The claimed invention, on the other hand, requires the reference discal unit 25 to be rotatably mounted on a cylindrical member 301 fixed to the housing 33. The claimed invention also requires the operation discal unit 28 to be connected to the detection discal unit 304 by a shaft at least partly located inside said fixed cylindrical member.

Kikuchi does not include a single cylindrical member that is fixed to the housing as well as having the reference discal unit mounted thereon. The turntable 118 (which arguably corresponds to the reference discal unit) is fixed to the inner cylinder 136 whereas the chassis 112 is fixed to the outer cylinder 132. The structure of the claimed invention provides a rigid and stable structure on which the reference discal unit 25 can be mounted. This is superior to the complicated bearing set up of Kikuchi because it would be easier to manufacture and there is less chance for manufacturing error affecting the quality of the reproducing unit.

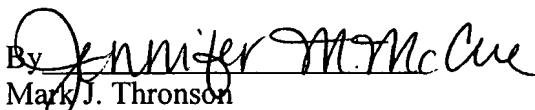
Additionally, the reproducing apparatus of the claimed invention provides the user with the feeling that he or she is "scratching" a polyvinyl record on a turntable. When the user removes his or her hand from the operation discal unit 28, the unit 28 returns to the same rotational speed as the reference distal unit 25, in a manner similar to that in which a record on a turntable would do. The reproducing apparatus of Kikuchi, on the other hand, is configured to provide an additional rotational driving force to disk 122 in addition to the mere interaction of the lower surface of the disk and the upper surface of the turntable 118. The rotatable inner cylinder 136 is fixed to turntable 118 and is in direct frictional contact with the rotational axis 116, which in turn is fixed to disk 122. See, Kikuchi FIG. 5. Therefore, when a user removes his or her hand from the disk 122, the rotation of inner cylinder 136 has the effect of providing a rotational driving force to the rotational axis 116. This will have an effect on the speed and direction of the rotation of the disk 122 which does not mirror that of a polyvinyl record on a turntable.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Kikuchi for at least the reasons discussed above. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and are allowable along with claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-3 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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